



Hook, Line, and Sinker

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New Ulm Area Sport Fishermen • P.O. Box 294 • New Ulm, MN 56073 Web Site: newulmsportfish.org.

New YorkTimes Editorial

Tiles, Farms and the Dead Zone

Every year, usually beginning in late spring, an oxygen-depleted dead zone form in the Gulf of Mexico at the Mississippi River's mouth, killing off fish, shrimp and other marine life. By the time cooler weather restores life to the zone, the fishing industry has sustained substantial losses.

Scientists have long known that the dead zone – this year it covered 7,000 square miles – is created largely by nitrate washed downstream from fertilized fields as far north as Minnesota. A study in the *Journal of Environmental Quality* by scientists from Cornell University and the University of Illinois has now conclusively identified the largest source of the nitrate tiled farm fields.

For as long as farmers have been farming in the Midwest, they have been laying drainage tile – often perforated plastic tubes in stalled 2 feet to 4 feet below the



Dave Mecklenburg, left, receives a check for the E.E. Mecklenburg Scholarship Fund from the Peterman Fishing Contest.

surface – to drain wetlands and create arable fields in places that would normally hold standing water. The problem is that the system also sluices away nitrogen fertilizer, which eventually flows through tributaries into the Mississippi and ends in the gulf of Mexico.

Mark David, a University of Illinois researcher, observed that “farmers are not to blame”. We agree. Tiling is as old as Midwestern farming. What's needed now is research and direct incentives from the Agriculture Department to find ways to mitigate this problem.

These include: restoring wetlands, where possible; growing cover crops to absorb water in the spring, when runoff is heaviest; different methods of applying fertilizer, and even methods of treating the runoff before it reaches creeks and rivers. Sacrificing life in the gulf for corn in the fields is a trade-off that has to stop.

Club Calendar

Thursday, Oct. 28th . . .General Meeting at the Clubhouse 7:30
Sunday, Oct. 31st . . . Halloween, All Day (Werewolves New Ulm)
Monday, Nov. 1st . . . All Saints Day
Tuesday, Nov. 2nd . . U.S. Election Day—Vote for the Environment
Sunday, Nov.7th . . .Daylight Savings Time Ends



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From the President

By Jason Kuester

The location of the club's Ice Fishing Trip will be at
Dixson Lake Resort. Todd and Karen are very excited to have
our club back at their resort this year. They have also donated a four per-
son fishing trip as one of our prizes for the fishing contest we will have in
February. The date for the trip is February 17, we have 25 people signed
up already I need to have conformation and down payment to them by the
December's meeting. If you are interested in going along on this trip
please contact me at 507-381-2041 or e-mail at jr@newulmtel.net.

It is time to start thinking of the Ice Fishing Contest. At the last
meeting the club decided that we would spend the extra money and send
one book of tickets to every member. We are asking that everyone please
try to sell at least one book of tickets. If you are unable to sell your tick-
ets please send them back or drop them off at the meeting. This event is
our largest fund raiser for the club. We need to make some extra money
this year so we can do some awesome projects. Additional tickets are
always available at each meeting or by contacting Ross Nelson at 507-
766-0765. We will have sign up sheets for collecting prizes for this event.

I would like to thank everyone who has helped paint the Club
house and the thin ice signs for Clear Lake. Ron Ludewig, Steve
Dummer, and Troy Bode installed a new pump on the aerator last week-
end. Thank you repair crew!!

Fall is here (maybe winter) and what a great time to bring
our friends and family to the New Ulm Area Sport Fisherman Club. We
are always looking for new members to join. If you know of someone
bring them along and show them how much fun we have at our club. As
always, bring a friend and each of you will receive a free refreshment of
your choice!

Hope to see you at the next meeting!!

CRANK BAIT

You can tune a piano, but you can't tune a fish.

—Spooky Tooth

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The *Hook Line and Sinker* is published monthly by **joyce reese graphic design** for the New Ulm Area Sport Fishermen. The opinions expressed in this newsletter are solely those of respective writers and not to be construed as the opinion of the NUASF or its members. Send all correspondence and submissions to **New Ulm Area Sport Fishermen, P.O. Box 294, New Ulm, MN 56073.**

The NUASF Board

President - Jason Kuester (381-2041); Vice-President - Gary Sprenger (359-9358); Secretary - Ross Nelson (507-766-0765) Treasurer - Tony Miller (354-2457); Board Members: Jim Hulke (354-3654), Mike Buechner (354-2739 s), Ken Sutherland (354-4140).
Hook, Line & Sinker Editor - Franz Kitzberger (359-8944)

MEETING NOTES from September 30

- *Members present: 30+
- *Secretary's and Treasurer's Reports were read and approved unanimously.
- *Membership Update: Membership stands at 197 with 31 due. Mike Buechner leads recruiting with 4 new members.
- *Area Lakes and Rivers Report: Lots of walleyes at Lake Hanska, some 10 ? inches.
- *Clubhouse and Grounds Update: 8 members helped paint the clubhouse; some overhang and trim left to do; also painted 'thin ice' signs; set October 14th to finish painting; ice-fishing houses also need painting for the season.
- *Jason K. purchased a real fine shed (10' x 16') from School District #88 for \$100; will need a group effort to put up and place on grounds.
- *Jim H. has some lawn mower parts on backorder and is not sure if they will be available.
- *Riverblast Update: For exact figures (income, expenses, profits) please see Treasurer Tony Miller. It was noted that there were problems getting enough help at the NUASF booth. Scott S. reported that totals (attendance, revenue, etc.) were down but it was still a fine event; Scott also announced that there will not be another Riverblast, not as we have known it, at least, and not sponsored by CCMR.
- *Winter Fishing Trip: Set for February 17th—20th at Dixon Lake. Meet at Runnings at 6:00 a.m. Jason K. has already made a down payment and quite a few members have signed up; first come-first served room for 40 to 50 people on this outing.
- *Scott S. gave a very encouraging report on the Kid's Hooked on Fishing seminar: 350 kids, 5th-6th graders from around the New Ulm/Sleepy Eye area, attended. It was a lot of fun and very educational!
- *Babe Winkelman Seminar: About 150 people attended a very long-winded but quite entertaining presentation: "Fishing is good for the soul."
- *Thanks to Alex M. for his fine craftwork in devising key chains with the NUASF logo and also a large logo for display purposes.
- *Peterman Fishing Contest raised \$80 for the EE Mecklenburg Scholarship Fund. Thanks, Pete! Fittingly, Dave M. won the contest with a 2 lb.-1 oz Sheep Head. Way to fish, Meck!
- *Ice Fishing Contest: Posters and tickets for this event will be done (tentatively) by the November general meeting; motion to distribute a book of raffle tickets to each NUASF member to sell passed unanimously.
- *Redman Club Bingo: Volunteers were sought for helping with Bingo Night, with proceeds going to NUASF.
- *Alex M. also will make some fish-scaling tools for club in-house raffles.
- *Food for October meeting: Bring a side-dish to pass; we will be grilling bratwurst left over from Riverblast.

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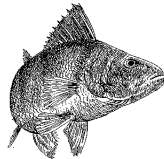
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